

02-230

Calvin Howell

From: Bradford W. Miller [bradfordmiller@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2004 8:01 AM
To: Michael Powell
Subject: AT&T v SBC (local v long distance access fees)

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The Honorable Michael Powell,

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**

I read with interest an article in the WSJ about the FCC's upcoming ruling on AT&T's desire to pay only "local access fees" to SBC for calls connected via the internet. Unlike the general tenor of the article indicating that AT&T was attempting to be a wolf in sheep's clothing by offering a service fundamentally different than voice services placed computer-to-computer I'd like to voice one (financially disinterested) opinion in favor of AT&T.

Not for their argument on it's face (it's pretty silly), but rather that there should be no difference in fees the local phone companies get for the use of their equipment for the last mile of service. How the call gets into their network (local or long distance) is of no matter. AT&T is, in my opinion, right in thinking they should only be charged the local connection fee. The call is local once AT&T routes it onto the local network.

Where the call is placed onto the network should be the only point to distinguish what fee is charged, not the technologies used to get it there.

Best regards,

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